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RETURN TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE
POLITICAL ARCHIVES
12/23/31

ORGANIZATION AFFILIATED WITH THE FRONT, INCLUDING BUDDHIST, HOA HAO, CAO DAI, BINH XUYEN FRONT FROAPS, AS WELL AS MONTAGNARD, STUDENT, FARMER, AND TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONE. THESE STATEMENTS REITERATE USUAL BOYCOTT CALL AND HAVE DENOUNCED GVN ELECTORAL PROCESS. ADDITIONALLY, IN REGULAR COMMENTARIES VC HAVE DENOUNCED ALL THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND PROGRAMS, CIVILIAN AS WELL AS MILITARY SLATES.

3. VC, HOWEVER, STILL LARGELY REFRAINFROM PUBLICLY CALLING FOR "SMASHING" OF ELECTIONS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEIR "SMASHING" ACTIVITIES ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE. THIS DICHOTOMY IS FURTHER SEEN IN VC RADIO REPORTAGE ONAUGUST 26-27 SPATE OF WIDESPREAD TERRORIST AND SABOTAGE INCIDENTS, INCLUDING THE MORTARING OF THE DELTA CITY OF CAN THO ON AUGUST 27. VC RADIO IN AUGUST 29 BROADCAST ONLY COINCIDENTALLY CONNECTED ATTACKS WITH SEPTEMBER 3 ELECTIONS AND SAID ATTACKS AND INCIDENTS ARE PRIMARILY IN ANSWER TO RECENT U.S. AIR STRIKES ON NVN, AND ARE VC WAY OF GREETING HANOI'S SEPTEMBER 2 NATIONAL DAY ANNIVERSARY. LAST YEAR, SUCH INCIDENTS WERE DIRECTLY TIED VC ANTI-CA ELECTION ACTIVITIES, AS WAS CASE, FOR EXAMPLE,

WITH VC RADIO TREATMENT OF THE SINKING OF SHIP IN SAIGON RIVER CHANNEL IN AUGUST 1966.

4. AS DISCERNED FROM CAPTURED DONUMENTS AND [redacted] VC VIEW ELECTIONS AS BOTH A DISTINCT THREAT AND AS AN OPPORTUNITY. THE THREAT OF SEEING A GOVERNOENT ESTABLISHED THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS -- SOMETHING WHICH THE "NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT" CANNOT CLAIM, IS BEING MET BY WIDESPREAD SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES AND TERRORISM. ON THE OTHER HAND, VC SEEM TO HOPE THEY CAN FOMENT CIVIL UNREST AND DISCREDIT NEW GOVERNMENT BY STIMULATING PROTESTS AGAINST THE ELECTIONS AMONG LARGE SECTIONS OF THE POPULACE, WITH PERHAPS THE HELP OF EXTREMIST BUDDHIST ELEMENTS AND SOME HARD LOSERS IN THE ELECTION RACE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE ELECTIONS, IN VC EYES, CAN BE USED TO EXPLOIT THE "CONTRADICTIONS" WITHIN THE GVN.

5. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT VC WILL REAP ANY SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS FROM

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THEIR TACTICS. A POPULARLY CONSTITUTED AND FUNCTIONING GVN WILL CLEARLY BE A BLOW TO THE VC'S POLITICAL FORTUNES. HOWEVER, BY LARGELY AVOIDING PUBLIC CLAIMS BEFOREHAND THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE BLOCKED, THE VC ARE PRUDENTLY NOT GOING TOO FAR OUT ON A PROPAGANDA LIMB, AS THEY DID IN THE 1966 ELECTIONS. WHILE THIS

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MAY REDUCE THEIR LOSS OF FACE ON THE PROPAGANDA SIDE, IT IS ALSO A TACIT ADMISSION THAT THEY CANNOT "FOIL" THE ELECTIONS AS THEY BOASTED LAST YEAR.

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